

“I’d like to start today by telling you a story...”

Shoelaces -> The need for a teacher

In case you don’t know me, my name is Christian Anderson and I serve in Chi Alpha at Oregon State University. I’m so thrilled to be sharing in this All This Matters Series. Hasn’t it been great so far?

I loved Pastor Franks message last week on prayer and using the Lord’s prayer as a guide. Today, I’m privileged to talk about a calling/ spiritual discipline that I am so passionate about Discipleship. Discipleship is one of the main things I do in my ministry in Chi Alpha.

Where does Discipleship come from?

The call to discipleship, or making disciples, comes from this command in Matthew 28:18-20.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Commanding Verb - Go (going), teach?, baptize?, **Make Disciples**

The Greek word for Disciple is...

Disciple = μαθητης (Mathētes) *[Is it possible to get this on the screen?]*

Now this type idea of disciple was actually a formal form of education in the ancient world. People all across the ancient world had “disciples”, but in ancient Judea, where Jesus was from they had a very specific idea of someone being a disciple and growing in their spiritual understanding.

Beit Sefer (House of the Book) 5/6 - 10

Beit Talmud/Midrash (House of the Learning/Instruction) 10-15

Disciple of a Rabbi - 15-30

Now Jesus was saying this to his disciples. He was saying to the people he mentored to go and become mentors for others. Jesus made these 11 men the way that he would reach the world and tell the nations his message.

I want you to think about this for a second -> Jesus actually didn't write anything. He didn't leave with a book. The New Testament, all of Jesus' teachings were written down by his disciples or someone connected to his original disciples.

He didn't leave us a book -> he left us a people.

Jesus has ordained that his message was not to be learned about primarily in a textbook, but through a relationship with his people. This is not a diminishing of the word of God or the Bible at all. That Bible is the inspired word of God that witnesses and speaks to us today...

But the fact that we have the Bible does not get us off the hook that Jesus has called us to be the bearers of His message. He did not set up a book, self help plan, a video blog, news channel, website, radio broadcast, church building, magazine, non-profit, or organizational flow chart... He appointed a people. He appointed you.

He didn't leave us a book, he left us a people.

It reminds of what Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:3.

2 Corinthians 3:3

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

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And this idea that God's people would be the main way that he would mentor people in truth, didn't start here. It was the plan through the whole Bible.

We see it here in Deut.6:4-7 (One of the 3 main key verses in the OT)

Deut 6:4-7 -

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

(Briefly Elaborate)

We also as the church was rapidly spreading through after Pentecost that Paul saw this command to make disciples as of key importance

2 Timothy 2:2 -

...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

(Briefly Elaborate)

So, we know that Jesus is commanding us to make disciples as his means of reaching the world and training them up for Godliness - His plan of maturing people in Christ.

But what does it practically look like. Because my time is limited I'm going to describe the process of in three main steps.

1) We are to *embrace* someone like Jesus.

Matthew 4:18-19 - While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Contrast this calling to the pharisaical “Best of Best” calling

Mark 2:13-17 (The calling of Levi and the pharisees response)

Means we need to open up our lives. ->

Embracing immature people. Teaching children means dealing with immature people. Not comfortable - Not easy.

2) We are to *teach* the truth like the Spirit.

Jesus says in John 16:13, that the Spirit will guide us in all truth. With his guidance, we are called to be part of the way the Spirit teaches his people to follow Christ.

Colossians 3:16 -

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Youth Pastor vs. JP Mumley

What kind of things should you teach:

- Prayer
- Participating in the Church
- Conforming our character and thoughts to Christ
- How to read the Bible
- Evangelism
- The things we are talking about in this series...

3) We are to *send* people like the Father.

The Sending Father -

John 3:16 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the **Father** who **sent** me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

Real Responsibility.

Acts 13:1-3 -

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Brady - Trent (Cassie and Jon)
(Giving up power makes us more powerful)

I'd like to conclude with two action steps:

1) Be a disciple

If you aren't a disciple, if you aren't abiding in Christ and maturing in your faith - you won't have anywhere to take someone.

2) Find a Disciple

Spiritual Orphans - "...you give them something to eat." (Luke 9:13)

- Open your life.